

HSC Contact

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Review Staff: 76/02
2 January 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Searle Field on HSC
Final Report

The HSC's final report will be in three sections:

1. HSC Oversight Experience
2. The Investigative Record
3. Recommendations

The section on oversight experience will cite the difficulties the HSC has encountered in getting the information required to conduct its investigation. Starting with the "four little words" in September, Field said that the section will take up delays which forced the use of subpoenas, stalling by the State Department, The Boyatt problem, etc. Field said that there had been far more trouble with the State Department, the White House and the Defense Department than with the Agency, and that the report will reflect this.

The second section, dealing with the investigative record, will follow the broad outline taken by the HSC in its investigation - the costs, risks and value received from the intelligence community.

The final section will include between one and two dozen recommendations. No specific legislative proposals will be included in this section, but the need for certain new statutes will be cited. The HSC does not have the power to introduce legislation, and Otis Pike does not himself want to submit new legislative proposals for fear that he might be elected chairman of a House Oversight Committee - a post he does not desire.

The over-all report will have a short and non-detailed text. The detail will be in long footnotes. Field said that he expected most difficulty with the Agency in terms of detail, and was thus trying to keep the text of

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the report as general as possible, so that the bulk of our objections, arising out of the technical review process, will be over foot-notes, not the text.

Field said "the thing which had upset them most" had been the command and control mechanism of the government which had launched elements of the intelligence community into what the HSC saw as ill-conceived ventures. Field said that the report would be highly critical of the concentration of powers in the hands of a few non-elected officials (J. Edgar Hoover and Secretary Kissinger in particular). Field said that the HSC had far less difficulty with the role of the DCI than with a very few men whom Pike feels have held too much decision-making power for too long.

Field said that the first portion of the report should be ready for the Agency's technical review by about 7 January. I said that we would await it with interest.

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for
Review Staff

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